

GREAT STEEL STRIKE ON

The Order to Quit Work Generally Obeyed by the Men.

EVEN NON-UNION MILLS CLOSED

From West Virginia to Illinois Every Mill of the Steel Combine Was Forced to Shut Down - Nearly 100,000 Men Were Affected by the Strike Order - Employers Say They Will Not Yield.

Pittsburg, Penn. - After a three days' session the conference between representatives of the American Sheet Steel, American Steel Hoop and American Tin Plate, subsidiary companies of the United States Steel Corporation, and the General Executive Board of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, adjourned finally without reaching an agreement. Less than an hour later President Shaffer, of the Amalgamated Association, had wired the following order to all the Amalgamated lodges in the tin plate, steel hoop and sheet steel mills of the country:

"Notify your men that the mill is on a strike, and will not work on Monday, July 15."

Reports received from all sources connected with the strike of the steel workers indicate that the strike order was generally obeyed. The number of men who went out is 74,000.

Reports from all the towns in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Illinois and Indiana, where the plants of three combines are located, are that a general shut-down took place.

The strikes occurred in the following places in Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh, Allegheny, McKeesport, Johnstown, Canonsburg, New Castle, Ellwood City, Apollo, New Kensington, Hyde Park, Leechburg, Saltsburg, Sharon, Greenville, Carnegie, Charters.

In Ohio the "struck" towns are New Philadelphia, Piqua, Ironton, Lisbon, Cambridge, Cleveland, Niles, Canton, Bridgeport, Monaca, Mingo Junction, Wellsville and Martin's Ferry.

In Indiana the tied-up plants are at Elwood, Anderson, Gas City, Muncie and Atlanta. Other places are Joliet, Ill.; Muskegon, Mich., and Cumberland, Md.

The American Steel Hoop Company's supposedly non-union mill, known as the Painter mill, in this city, was closed in all its branches. The tie-up was said to have been a surprise to the owners and officials. The other non-union plant known as the Lindsay and McCutcheon mill, in Allegheny, was shut down completely in the puddling and bar mills.

The Amalgamated also added two mills to its list, both of which were claimed by the companies to be beyond the reach of organization. When the William Clark Sons Company mill, which operated all day under non-union auspices, came to shift turns at night, none of the skilled men reported for duty, and the plant had to close down.

Later the following report was received from Monaca, concerning a mill considered by the manufacturers unexceptionally loyal: "The Monaca steel hoop plant is closed and has been organized by the district delegates of the Amalgamated Association."

The conquest of these two plants is considered by the association people as an instance of their strength.

While all the mills of the United States corporation are included in the general conflict, the three companies named are the first attacked.

President Shaffer, representing the strikers, said:

"The position of the Amalgamated Association has been persistently misrepresented. We do not ask the assistance of the manufacturers in unionizing the plants now being operated non-union. All we ask is that the three companies sign the scales for all mills, whether non-union or union, thus preventing discrimination in favor of non-union plants during dull times, and that all agreements now in force between the companies and the men binding the latter not to join any labor organization be cancelled. In other words, we ask only to be let alone in the matter of organization."

Vice-President Warner Arms, of the American Tin Plate Company, said:

"The question on which the disagreement took place was whether the Amalgamated Association could force us to work all our plants under a union agreement, whether they were union or not. We felt that demand to be unjust."

When President Shaffer was informed of the granting of the advance to the McKeesport tube workers, he said: "I anticipated such action on the part of the manufacturers, and have warned our men to guard against being blinded by such dust-throwing methods. It is nevertheless a victory for labor."

"I expect that similar advances will be given to the men of other works of the United States Steel Corporation that have not been affected by the strike order, in the hope that the workers may refuse to come out should we decide to extend the strike to all the plants of the corporation."

Asked if the association can stand a long strike, President Shaffer said:

"We have a larger defense fund than most of our members even suppose. We have been accumulating it for years, and we will not need to levy any strike assessment for months."

"When we do we are happy in the assurance that thousands of our men in the independent plants will be ready to help us. Remember we have

had several years of prosperous times. Work has been plenty and our men have paid their assessments ungrudgingly."

The amount of wages lost each day by the present strike in the mills of the three companies is estimated at \$200,000 to \$300,000, or nearly \$1,500,000 a week. The loss in output to the companies, all of whom have their products sold for months to come, cannot be estimated.

One of the first effects of the strike will be to increase the price of tin-ware. Before the tin plate mills closed they were away behind in their orders, the supply not being equal to the demand. None of the tin shops have more than a small stock on hand. Housewives will have to pay considerably more for tin cups, pails, etc., than now if the strike is prolonged. The fruit trade will also be hit hard by the strike, prices of tin cans being advanced.

Should the strike be prolonged many interests would be sure to suffer. The strikers could possibly take good care of themselves. Work is plenty on all sides, and besides the Amalgamated Association has a strong fund in bank which is said to amount to between \$200,000 and \$300,000.

The railroads would be the greatest sufferers, as a long strike would greatly decrease the shipment of mill products. Building contractors and others using iron and steel would also come in for much loss. It is even possible that building operations might be seriously hampered. The demand for coke and coal would fall off. The possibilities of the strike are startling.

THE LOSS TO THE GOVERNMENT.

Delay in Delivery of Armor Plate May Subject It to Claims For Damages.

Washington, D. C. - The United States may have to pay heavily for the steel strike. The Cramp Shipbuilding Company recently filed a claim against the Government for several hundred thousand dollars, alleging damage as a result of the failure of the Government to deliver the armor for the Alabama class of battle ships within the time fixed by the contract.

The Government has no penalty clause in its contracts with the armor plate and machinery are required for the new ships. The strike will naturally prevent the delivery of this material and delay the completion of the ships.

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SHOWERS IN THE CORN BELT

Rain Falls in Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa.

COMES TOO LATE FOR SOME CROPS

The Rain Will Revive Late Corn, Although Some Fields Are Too Far Gone to Be Benefited - A Generous Fall in Some Sections of Nebraska and Iowa - Kansas Crop Prospects.

Topeka, Kan. - While rain has fallen in various parts of Kansas, the drought was not broken, and the crops were benefited but little. The rains were small local affairs, and their only effect was to cool the atmosphere and freshen vegetation to a certain extent.

Reports of blighted crops continue to come in. A hopeful tone pervades most of the reports, however, and the determination is generally expressed to make the best of the situation. In the eastern division of the State crops are suffering more than in any other. The damage done in the central part is less severe, while in the western part the conditions are most favorable.

Kansas City, Mo. - Rain fell over an area of eighty miles around Kansas City. At Lawrence, Kan., it was the first moisture in twenty-six days. Ottawa, Wellsville and Toronto, Kan., and Camden Point, Mo., also report good rains. Although some fields are reported too far gone to be saved, it is believed late corn will be greatly revived.

Dallas, Texas. - Reports from the Texas cotton belt show that the rain did not reach that section, and that the plant is suffering. In the Panhandle small streams are reported dry, and cattlemen are becoming alarmed over the continued drought.

Omaha, Neb. - Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa received an inch or more of rain, which relieved the drought and heated term. Rains also fell in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Little Rock, Ark. - Good rains fell over the larger portion of Arkansas. At Texarkana and Hot Springs wind and lightning did considerable damage.

St. Paul, Minn. - Rains fell in different parts of the State, but there is serious damage to crops in the southeastern part of the State.

Steady Rain in the South. Jackson, Miss. - At the close of a sultry day the rain fell steadily and apparently over wide scope of country. The hot wave is broken, and there is general rejoicing. The rain is too late to save any late corn, but means much for cotton, potatoes, cane and gardens.

Chicago Short of Vegetables. Chicago. - As a result of the continued hot, dry weather, vegetables are attaining record prices. Complaints from all parts of the West, claiming a big shortage in vegetables, have been received, and many points which usually ship to Chicago are now in this market buying for the home account.

Michigan Fruit Belt Scorched. St. Joseph, Mich. - The raspberry crop is ruined in Berrien County by the continued dry spell, representing a loss to the farmers of \$100,000. The blackberry crop is threatened with ruin. It is the first time in the history of the fruit belt that the berry crops have been ruined by dry weather.

Firemen Begin Their Strike. Refuse to Go to Work, and Force Thousands of Miners Into Idleness. Wilkesbarre, Penn. - The strike of the stationary firemen inaugurated on Tuesday tied up nearly all the mines in the Wyoming Valley, and a conservative estimate placed the number of men idle at 50,000. This included the men out in the Scranton district. Only about 800 of these were firemen. The balance was made up of miners, laborers, engineers, breaker boys and machinists employed in and about the collieries. Every mine from Pittston to Nanticoke was affected.

Leader of the Steel Strikers.

THEODORE J. SHAFFER, President of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Tin Workers.

South African Situation Serious. The London Daily Mail says it possesses abundant evidence that the whole theatre of the South African war is in a much worse state than the public is allowed to know. The condition of affairs in Cape Colony, particularly, after twenty-one months of warfare, is very serious.

Hundreds Killed in Volcanic Eruption. Oriental advisers give 700 as the number of the natives and Europeans killed by the recent eruption of the volcano of Kileet, in the Island of Java.

Howard C. Benham Dead. Howard C. Benham, who was twice tried for the murder of his child-wife, Florence Tont Benham, at Batavia, N. Y., died in a Columbus, Ohio, hospital of typhoid and brain fever. Benham was convicted at the first trial, but at the second he was acquitted.

To Raise the Taku Forts. The military commanders have directed the provisional Government of Tien-Tsin, China, to undertake the destruction of the Taku forts, and the Government has promised to comply on receipt of a military guard to protect the workmen engaged in the task.

Embezzling Treasurer Free. Joseph Bartley, former State Treasurer of Nebraska, convicted of the embezzlement of an amount variously placed at from \$500,000 to \$750,000, and sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary, has been released on parole by Governor Savage. Mr. Bartley had served forty-nine months.

Treaty Shore Dead-LOCK. It now seems that there is small probability of an agreement being reached between France and Great Britain over the Newfoundland question.

Ice Blocks Labrador Coast. Ice continues to block the Labrador coast, rendering navigation in Belle Isle Strait extremely dangerous.

Personal Mention. King Edward's title is to be changed to Emperor because of the wider extent of his power.

Former Governor Bob Taylor, of Tennessee has made \$16,000 out of his last lecture, with fiddle accompaniment.

Emperor William is a partner in the construction of an electric express railway from Hamburg to Berlin, Germany.

The Empress of Russia is a typewriter, and assists her husband by taking down many of his letters from dictation.

SURVEYING GOLD BOUNDARY

Mason and Dixon's Line Will Be Marked With Iron Posts.

Pennsylvania and Maryland Divide the Expenses of the Survey and Relocation of the Markers.

Baltimore, Md. - The old Mason and Dixon line between Maryland and Pennsylvania is being re-surveyed, and will soon be re-marked with iron posts. This work is being done under the direction of Dr. William B. Clark, of the Maryland Geological Bureau, and Secretary of Internal Affairs Latta, of Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Legislature in 1889 appropriated \$7000 to repair and reset the monuments on the boundary line between this commonwealth and the adjacent State of Maryland on the South, and in 1900 the Legislature of Maryland supplied \$5000 to aid in the work.

Mason and Dixon's boundary line, which originally was run and marked to establish the territorial limits of Pennsylvania and Maryland, later became famous as the boundary between the free and slave-holding States of the North and South. It was, according to an agreement made in 1773, to run due west from Cape Henlopen (fifteen miles south of the point now known by that name), to the middle of the peninsula of the Eastern Shore, thence northward tangent to a circle of twelve miles radius, whose centre was at New Castle, Del., and due north from that point tangent point until it reached a parallel fifteen miles south of the southernmost part of Philadelphia. From this point the line was run due west.

Surveyors had already determined the position of the "centre of the peninsula," the north and south line and the "tangent point" when Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, English astronomers and mathematicians, arrived in Philadelphia in 1763. From the time of their arrival until December, 1767, Mason and Dixon were busy locating the "southernmost part of Philadelphia," and the northern boundary of Maryland, which they surveyed and marked as far as Dunkard Creek, now in West Virginia, when they were stopped by the Indians.

Along the greater part of the line each mile was marked by a stone monument, which had the letter "P" engraved or cut on the northern side, while at each fifth mile there was a similar stone known as the "crown stone," with the coat of arms of the State on the northern face and with those of Lord Baltimore on the southern. These stones were brought from England.

These monuments, which are to be replaced with cast-iron markers, suffered severely from attacks of vandals in the early days of the last century. Rapid progress is being made in the relocation of the line.

PERRY MONUMENT UNVEILED. Japanese and American Warships Salute in Honor of the Great Commodore.

Yokohama, Japan. - The ceremony of unveiling at Kurihama, the monument to commemorate the landing of Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry, July 14, 1853, was performed by Rear-Admiral Frederick Rogers, commanding the United States visiting squadron.

Viscount Katsura delivered the memorial address, and many Japanese officials of high rank were present. Three American and five Japanese warships saluted. Various Japanese were made honorary citizens of the United States.

Matthew Calbraith Perry was born in Newport, R. I., on April 10, 1794, was appointed midshipman in the United States Navy in 1809, Lieutenant in 1813, Commander in 1826, Captain in 1837, and Commodore in 1841. He organized and commanded the expedition to Japan, delivering the President's letter on July 14, 1853, and on March 31, 1854, obtained from Japan the treaty of peace, amity, and protection to American sailors. The monument just unveiled was erected by the Bel-yu-Kyokai, or American Association of Japan. The funds were largely contributed by Japanese.

MAN MURDERED ON A TRAIN. Fellow Passenger Said He Had to Shoot to Break Hypnotic Spell.

Rawlins, Wyo. - A. P. Rogers, an employee of a packing company in St. Joseph, Mo., was shot to death by Edward Hartley Copeland, on Union Pacific Train No. 6. Copeland was traveling from Stockton, Cal., to Council Bluffs, Iowa, when three miles east of Wamsutter, Copeland walked into the car where Rogers was sitting and began shooting at him, saying: "There, take that." He shot three times, the bullets entering Rogers' breast, and instantly killing him.

When asked what caused him to kill Rogers, Copeland said: "He had hypnotized me, and I had to do it."

As the killing took place in Sweetwater County, Copeland was taken to Green River, and turned over to the authorities there.

Copeland was a teller in the Nebraska National Bank in Omaha for ten years prior to August, 1899. He left the city at that time, ostensibly for a summer vacation and visit to the Eastern States, but nothing was heard of him. A month after his departure his accounts showed a shortage of \$10,000. Half of this amount was made good by Copeland's brother-in-law and the remainder by his bondsman.

Governor Allen Leaves Porto Rico. Governor Allen and his wife, with their household effects, sailed for New York City on the Mayflower. Governor Allen admitted he had no intention of returning to Porto Rico. It is semi-officially announced that he will enter the diplomatic service.

Russia to Recruit 308,500 Men. Emperor Nicholas has issued an order that 308,500 men shall be recruited for the Russian Army and Navy during the present year.

Labor World. Only one-tenth of the wage-earners of the United States are organized. Five hundred striking teamsters have returned to work at St. Louis, Mo.

The Bates plant at Joliet, Ill., has been reopened, the striking machinists having won.

The International Longshoremen's Union has held its annual session in Toledo, Ohio.

Brewery wagon drivers at Washington, D. C., have won recognition for their union by a strike.

MINOR EVENTS OF THE WEEK

WASHINGTON ITEMS.

Putnam Bradley Strong's resignation as a Captain in the Army was accepted by Secretary Root's order.

In their annual report the engineers in charge of river and harbor improvements recommended a large appropriation for waters about New York City.

Secretary Wilson said that while the corn crop was seriously damaged in several States, there was still hope of saving the greater part of it.

Secretary Root started for the West, on a tour of inspection of military posts.

Secretary Long signed an order giving in detail a long list of those who will receive medals and other honors for service in the China and Philippine campaigns.

The Weather Bureau abandoned its kite experiments, through which it hoped to revolutionize the business of prognostication.

OUR ADOPTED ISLANDS. Adjutant-General Corbin and Surgeon-General Sternberg arrived at Manila on the transport Hancock.

Colonel Santos, with forty men and thirty rifles, surrendered at Ligao, in Albay Province, P. I. The insurrection in North Camarines Province is practically ended.

DOMESTIC. A Coroner's jury censured Captain Johnson, of the ferryboat Mauch Chunk, for the Northfield collision in New York Harbor, in which five lives were lost, but freed the captains of the two boats.

For embezzlement of postal funds, Postmaster Alexander Bush, of Mills, N. M., was arrested.

Colliding trans near Vinton, Ohio, killed a section foreman and injured three trainmen.

Chancellor Magie, at Trenton, N. J., appointed three administrators, pendente lite, of the estate of the late Jacob S. Rogers, and postponed the hearing of the will contest until September 16 next.

A fly bite on his nose caused the death of B. F. Cochran, of Beville, Tex.

While bathing in Mahoning River, at Youngstown, Ohio, Ethel Fitch and Annie Gunn, small girls, were drowned.

Pardoned because he was dying, C. W. Mussey, the Rutland (Vt.) bank wrecker, is getting well.

Lighting killed the racing mare Arline B., valued at \$4000, owned by Charles L. Smith, of Colorado Springs, Col.

When ordered to do some work, Charles Phillips, colored, killed his employer, Lucius Reed, at Cleveland, Miss.

For robbing the First National Bank of Mineral Point, Wis., of \$26,000, Steward Heffelf will serve fourteen years in jail.

From seeing two women killed by a train, Mrs. Oscar Turney, of Beloit, Wis., became a maniac.

United States Boundary Commissioner Cunningham was drowned in the Rio Grande River, near El Paso, Texas.

A round white pearl, weighing 101 grains, was taken from a Mississippi River clam near Prairie du Chien, Wis.

Twenty Epworth League members were robbed of railway tickets and money in Colorado Springs, Col., while on their way to San Francisco.

Which his wife refused to live with him after a year's separation, C. A. Kline, of Michigan City, Ind., committed suicide, and his desecrating wife did the same.

W. D. Gleason, a real estate broker, of Brooklyn, died of hydrophobia after great suffering. He was bitten by a pet dog last March.

A \$800 shortage in the accounts of Postmaster C. Green Parker, at Humboldt, Tenn., was reported.

Poison was found in the milk furnished the patients in the County Hospital at Chicago. An analysis was made. Patients had complained of the milk.

Hadley Jones, former Mayor of Little Falls, N. Y., and now reputed defaulter, was located in Buenos Ayres, Argentina.

FOREIGN. The British Government was defeated on a trivial question in the House of Lords by a vote of forty-one to twenty.

A revolt in the Island of Quelpart, belonging to Korea, may become of international importance by involving foreign Powers.

Andrew D. White announced that Germany's action on return questions might determine his return to Berlin after a visit to America in September.

Two sisters, named Yeoland, committed suicide in London, in despair of getting theatrical engagements.

A woman fired a revolver near Pierre Baudin, the French Minister of Public Works, in Paris. She intended, she said, to intimidate M. Delcasse, the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The British Admiralty prepared an elaborate schedule of tactics for the naval manoeuvres.

The ministers of the Powers at Peking, China, were sceptical regarding a conclusion of negotiations, owing to trouble between Great Britain and Russia.

General Kitchener reported that former President Steyn narrowly escaped capture.

CHECKING MAIL ABUSES

Reforms That May Lead to One Cent Letter Postage.

Three Important Orders Debarring "Premium" Publications From Second Class Rates Issued.

Washington, D. C. - Postmaster-General Smith has signed three orders amending in important particulars three postal regulations affecting second-class mail matter. The first order amends Section 276, which is the general definition, so as to exclude from the second-class publications which have the characteristics of books.

This amendment is in these words: "Periodical publications herein referred to are held not to include those having the characteristics of books, but only such as consist of current news or miscellaneous literary matter, or both (not excluding advertising), and conform to the statutory characteristics of second-class matter."

The second order amends Section 281 in several particulars, the principal one being that publications the subscriptions to which are not founded on their value as news or literary journals, and which, by the general use of premiums or other considerations in the form of chances to win prizes, etc., to induce subscriptions, in effect circulate at apparently a nominal rate, will be excluded from the second class. The essential paragraph of this is as follows:

"The subscription price must be shown by the publication, and when it appears from the contents, or from the extrinsic inducements offered in common with it, that the circulation of the publication is not founded on its value as a news or literary journal and that subscriptions are not made because of such value, but because of offers of merchandise or other consideration result, in effect, in its circulation at apparently a nominal rate, such publication does not come within the requirements of the law for acceptance as second-class matter."

The third order amends Section 301, so that unsold copies of second-class publications may not be returned at the pound rate to news agents or to publishers.

An explanatory statement given out at the Department regarding the order says: "The action of Postmaster-General Smith is regarded as highly important. It is evidence of the purpose of the Department to administer the law as it is, strictly and properly, and that abuses, wherever found, will be eradicated. Loose and indifferent interpretation heretofore is responsible for the loss of many millions to the Government. It is believed that when the effect of the changes is thoroughly established many postal improvements will follow, and one-cent letter postage will be made possible."

An immediate effect of the orders will be to bar from the mails at regular publication rates all "fake" publications and other periodicals whose circulation depends on various lottery and prize schemes. No legitimate publication will be injured by the new dispensation. On the contrary, all such publications, including newspapers and magazines of established character, will be distinctly benefited through the practical suppression by the Postoffice Department of catch-penny periodicals that have been systematically swindling the Government out of millions of revenue every year by burdening the mails with a class of matter which the lawmakers never intended should be considered as entitled to the rate of second-class mail.

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